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1. Although the fight against the Church in Hungary presently lacks dramatic climaxes as it did at the time of the MINDSZENTHY affair, it is still going on, partly under cover and partly in public.
2. The Catholic hierarchy is trying to avoid anything that could give pretext for useful propaganda measures against the Church. The bishops, who have been put under strict surveillance, are intentionally implementing the excommunication decree of the Holy See in a widespread manner. Particular efforts are being made to interrupt the regular communications between bishops and priests. The bishops are constantly disturbed by threats and denouncements in the press. The connection between the bishops and ROME is completely interrupted. Their mail is censored and all trips have been made impossible. They get clerical news only through foreign broadcasts.
3. As the connection between bishop and priest is entirely inadequate, the priests are forced to make far-reaching decisions on their own initiative. Not every priest meets the requirements of this changed situation. The priests charged with pastoral duties and sometimes the installations of Catholic orders are greatly troubled by arbitrary acts of provincial agencies which often oppose directives issued by the BUDAPEST Government. The priests are still systematically watched by eavesdroppers and informers. A method often applied is to have the priests in the confessional box questioned by agent provocateurs who denounce the answers as anti-Communist propaganda.
4. Eighty-six percent of the parents in BUDAPEST and about 93 percent of the parents in Hungary demanded religious instruction for their children. These figures have not been published but the Government was so impressed by the vote that it has not abolished optional religious instruction which is contrary to its original plan. It is now being attempted to defame religious instructors by arresting them under the charge of criminal offenses.

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5. The Catholic press has been paralyzed by indirect measures. The St. Stephen Printing House, formerly owned by the Church, was given a Communist director general, all department chiefs were replaced by pro-Communists and even the compositors were exchanged for party members. The printing shop is given no paper allocations so that it will shut down when its own stocks have been used and the few possibilities to buy paper unofficially at increased rates are exhausted. The permission to print a new edition of the Bible was granted but the circulation was limited to 10,000 copies.
6. It is very difficult to obtain the actual figures of the persecuted laymen and priests. Efforts are now being made by the BUDAPEST Ordinariate to investigate the number of arrested priests. The official number of arrested priests is 30, but actually there are at least 135. The sentences meted out to priests are very severe. Father Alajos TUELL, the Vice-Provincial and successor to Father Istvan BORBELY, the emigrated Provincial of the Jesuits was sentenced to four years of penitentiary because, though knowing about BORBELY's intention to flee, he did not notify the police.
7. The financial situation of the Catholic Church is difficult since the State allowances for the pastoral priests are insufficient. It is rumored that the Hungarian Government intends to introduce the oath of allegiance for priests after the pattern of Czechoslovakia. If this is done only priests who have been sworn in will receive payment. The government has not decided whether clerical laws of the Czech pattern will be enacted. Anti-clerically minded politicians such as GEROE, REVAL and FARKAS advocate such a measure but Zoltan VAS, Imre FAGY and perhaps also KALOSI are recommending a more cautious method.

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